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CAPTURED WEHRMACHT SIGINT DOCUMENT

Translation of Activity Report of
OKW/CHI for the period 1st January,
1944 to 25th June, 1944.

The original German document of which the attached is a full translation, is dated 27th June, 1944, and was found in a personal file of Major i.G. NIELSEN, I a of OKW/WNV.

The file was found by a TICOM team in the OKW STRUB Barracks, near BERCHTESGADEN, in May 1945.

G.C.C.S. (S.A.C.)

4th June, 1945.

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Activity Report OKW/Chi.1/1/44 - 25/6/44.I. Task.

Chi. has the following tasks:-

a) Cover of inter-state wireless traffic of enemy and neutral states (encyphered and unencyphered telegraphic communications of diplomats, military attaches, government authorities, economic authorities etc.)

b) Cover of R/T transmissions of enemy and neutral states.

Cover of enemy and neutral commercial wireless transmissions of the major wireless stations and of the wireless news service, also of picture transmission (Hellsendungen), wireless news service, wireless broadcast transmissions and correspondents' reports of the Reuter, DOMEI etc. agencies.

Cover of enemy multiple-Morse wireless transmissions, also of illicit transmissions, agents' messages, of the secret press in EUROPE and of the special services "German Ps/W."

c) Decyphering of all code and cypher systems mentioned under a) and b) also of agents' systems covered by wireless security (OKW/Fu. III).

The following are employed in the carrying out of these tasks:-

1) for a)

Chi. I with Fixed Signals Recce Station TREUENBRIETZEN, Fixed Signals Recce Station LAUF with outstations LOERRACH and TENNENLOHE (all subordinated to Chi. I) and also branch stations LIBOURNE, MADRID (with branch station SEVILLE) and SOFIA.

2) for b)

Chi. II and III with intercept stations LUDWIGSFELDE, MUENSTER, HUSUM, GLENWITZ and KOENIGSBERG⁺.

NOTE: +KOENIGSBERG crossed out in original.

3) for c) Chi. IV.

4) Chi. V is responsible for the extensive teleprinter traffic ((involved)). This department is also charged with maintenance of the lines and apparatus, and the running of the entire ADOLF network of Abwehr at home and abroad. It runs the special communications service of Chi. C.-in-C. G.A.F., OKM., Fu., Abwehr, and Foreign Office. Monthly message rate 18-20000 teleprints.

II. Cover.

All cover is centrally controlled, by Chi. in order that it may do justice to the requirements of the recipients and the technical demands of decyphering and at the same time cut out unnecessary duplication. The monthly average intercepted during the period under review was as follows:

/Wireless

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Wireless messages: | 36,480. |
| Press reports: | 7,280. |
| R/T transmissions 20 minutes: | 7,340. |
| Line messages: | 12,330. |

Not included in this list are the transmissions of the illicit transmitters, agents' reports, special service "German Ps/W.", and other short transmissions.

It should at the same time be noted that the high figures were maintained despite the fact that work suffered, in part, considerable interference from bombing attacks.

The main intercept station of Chi. III, LUDWIGSFELDE, was destroyed on 2/1/44 complete with all intercept apparatus. In May 44, the intercept station HUSUM, Chi. III, was partly destroyed. Teleprinter connections with outstations LIBOURNE, MADRID, and SOFIA have, especially since the beginning of the invasion, been constantly cut. The MADRID outstation had to close down its branch station in the SEVILLE area to save it from being raided by the Spanish police and removed it, under difficulties, to SEVILLE itself. The W/T operators working in TANGIERS were expelled. The Fixed Signals Recce Stations LAUF and TREUENBRIETZEN had, owing to increasing danger of air attack to disperse elements to the alternative station TENNENLOHE, and the greater part of intercept station HUSUM to MUENSTER.

It was nevertheless found possible, by making use of prepared alternative quarters, transference of interception according to emergency plan, rapid carrying out of appropriate make-shift measures and double-banking of cut line connections by wireless, to keep the total interception performance at the required level, and to deliver material in good time to the evaluation departments.

III. Evaluation.

The evaluation of foreign language transmissions is done by Chi. II. During the period under review, an average of 253 broadcast transmissions and 234 wireless news service reports was dealt with daily.

Apart from the daily Chi. - reports (military, political, economic situation, commentaries), a further P/W report was issued on an average daily, and an espionage report nearly every day.

In addition, special reports were sent to the following:

Ag. Ausl. u. A. Abw. (about 45 separate reports daily).

Dept. Armed Forces Propaganda (current material, especially for Russian Legionaries).

OKM. 3 Dept., Naval War Staff (current Naval material, including 57 communiques of the British Admiralty).

Dept. Foreign Armies WEST (since the beginning of April, all material concerning the invasion).

Field Economics Office, WNV/Fu., Ag. Ausl., Chief HNW, Heerwesen Dept., and OKM. Org. Navigation.

/Close

Close contact was maintained with G.A.F. Ops. Staff and Air Staff of the G.A.F.

Chi. II achieved these results in spite of having to work since the outbreak of war without pause in day and night shifts, and, since August 43, owing to bomb damage, in a deep cellar in primitive and very cramped quarters.

IV. Decoding:

Encyphered messages are dealt with by Chi. IV.

a) Decoding:
Including duplicates, the following were dealt with:-

| | | |
|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 93 | 891 | line messages. |
| 150 | 847 | wireless messages. |
| 244 | 738 | cypher messages |

One eighth of this amount was due to BUDAPEST, the Forschungsamt accounted for rather more than a third. Rejects amounted to 1/4%.

Watch was kept on government codes and cyphers of 41 European and extra-European states and Allied agents' codes and cyphers.

Government codes and cyphers of 33 European and extra-European States and Agents' lines were worked on and decyphered. 17,792 VN⁺ were produced, including 6000 agents' messages. From point of view of numbers, the list was headed by Government reports of the U.S.A., POLAND, and TURKEY.

In addition, the following were worked on:-

The Bureau of Contemporary Affairs was completely reorganized after its destruction (Nov. 43) according to modern standards and re-equipped. Members of the Bulgarian Cypher Department of the General Staff were given a general view, of the principles of elementary cryptology. Members of the G.A.F. received instruction in a thorough course on general cryptology. (Course still running). Candidates for the career of "Senior Foreign Language Service of the Armed Forces" were placed together in a special course of advanced cryptology. Judgement was given on 50 code and cypher offers, and our own codes and cyphers introduced, or to be introduced, were examined. Complete reorganisation of our own agents' codes and cyphers was carried out, the "unauthorised codes and cyphers" being eradicated. 2 small key apparatuses were developed. Several decoding devices were built, and put into action, or handed over to G.A.F., Navy, and Foreign Office. A number of complicated recypherings, principally American (U.S.A.) and Polish, have been broken.

Damage to working materials (burnt pads, recypherings, cypher texts) caused by air attacks were regularly made good by copies which have been stored for safety elsewhere. In this connection the good relations, both personal and professional, with Foreign Office, with BUDAPEST, and with HELZINKI proved especially useful. Connection, already existing, with Mains REICH Security Office, were further developed, since professional considerations on both sides made closer co-operation necessary.

/The work

The work of the decoding group suffered in consequence of conditions caused by bomb damage. It must however be emphasized that the total output of this group fully met the demands made on it, in spite of the fact that the decoders had to work throughout nearly the whole winter in unheated rooms, for the most part without windows and doors.

NOTE: +A VN (VERLAESSLICHE NACHRICHT) is an intelligence item promulgated on the bases of a decoded signal.

b) The work accomplished by the decoding department is best demonstrated by the number of VN actually produced, after sorting and rejection of unimportant texts by

Chi. X.

| | | |
|-----------|----|-------|
| January | 44 | 1,795 |
| February | | 1,860 |
| March | | 1,466 |
| April | | 1,951 |
| May | | 2,122 |
| 1-25 June | | 1,656 |

The 6000 agents' messages handed to Fu. III are not included in these figures.

V. Personnel.

The combing-out of soldiers fit for active service for the Field Army and their replacement by unfit soldiers, female signals assistants and female employees was carried out on a large scale. This included not only administration and non-specialist personnel, but also specialists (decoders, interpreters, intercept operators, evaluators, and technicians), so far as that appeared tolerable.

Most of the specialists were declared indispensable. It was thus possible to ensure that the work of Dept. Chi. continued.

((Signed)) KETTLER.

FPP/ML/0910Z/2/6/45.